

Seattle Journal for Social Justice

Volume 6
Issue 1 *Fall/Winter 2007*

Article 29

November 2007

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Recommended Citation

Latif, Adnan Farhan Abdul (2007) "Hunger Strike Poem," *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*: Vol. 6 : Iss. 1 , Article 29.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/sjsj/vol6/iss1/29>

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ADNAN FARHAN ABDUL LATIF

Adnan Farhan Abdul Latif is a twenty-seven-year-old Yemeni from a family of modest means. The victim of a 1994 accident that resulted in serious head injuries, Latif spent much of the rest of the decade seeking affordable medical treatment in Jordan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Following the 9/11 attacks on the United States, he was taken into custody by Pakistani forces and turned over to the United States for a \$5,000 bounty. He was eventually flown to Guantánamo and kept for a time in an open-air kennel exposed to the elements, causing further deterioration of his health. Latif has periodically joined other detainees in hunger strikes.

HUNGER STRIKE POEM

by Adnan Farhan Abdul Latif

They are criminals, increasing their crimes.
They are criminals, claiming to be peace-loving.
They are criminals, torturing the hunger strikers.

They are artists of torture,
They are artists of pain and faigue,
They are artists of insults and humiliation.

They are faithless—traitors and cowards—
They have surpassed devils with their criminal acts.

They do not respect the law,
They do not respect men,
They do not spare the elderly,
They do not spare the baby-toothed child.

They leave us in prison for years, uncharged,
Because we are Muslims.

Where is the world to save us from torture?
Where is the world to save us from the fire and sadness?
Where is the world to save the hunger strikers?

But we are content, on the side of justice and right,
Worshipping the Almighty.

And our motto on this island is, *salaam*.

Poem reprinted from *Poems from Guantánamo: The Detainees Speak*, by permission of the
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